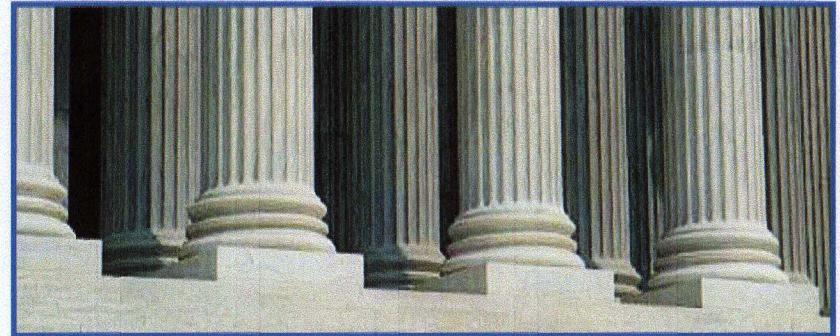




## Tucson City Court Annual Judicial Report Fiscal Year 2009



Tucson City Court  
103 E. Alameda  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
(520) 791-4189  
[www.cityoftucson.org/courts/](http://www.cityoftucson.org/courts/)

Antonio Riojas, Presiding Magistrate

Joan Harphant, Court Administrator

# Judicial Report

Fiscal Year 2009

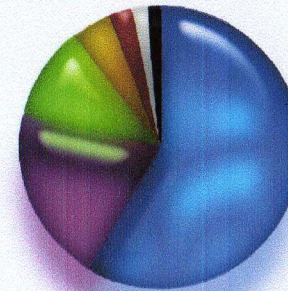
## Charges Filed

In Fiscal Year 2009, there were 272,318 charges filed with Tucson City Court; this number is up from Fiscal Year 2008 where 254,713 charges were filed.

We saw increases in all types of charges with the exception of Parking charges; Parking decreased by nearly 4,000 charges or 12%. The percentage of increase to each of the remaining Categories from the prior year, is as follows:

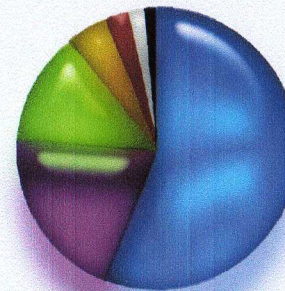
Charge Category	Increase
Civil Traffic	11%
Misdemeanors	7%
Criminal Traffic	2%
DUI	1%
Civil Ordinances	23%
Protection Orders/Injunctions	14%

As the chart above indicates, Civil Ordinances showed the greatest increase in filings, with Driving Under the Influence (DUI) showing the smallest increase. There doesn't seem to be any direct cause for the increase in Civil Ordinances. However, the increase in Civil Traffic filings could be attributed to the City's Photo Enforcement Program.



Civil Traffic	59.3%
Misdemeanors	19.7%
Parking	10.7%
Criminal Traffic	4.6%
DUI	2.6%
Civil Ordinances	1.8%
PO/HI	1.3%

Fiscal Year 2009



Civil Traffic	50.3%
Misdemeanors	21.7%
Parking	16.8%
Criminal Traffic	5.7%
DUI	2.7%
Civil Ordinances	1.5%
PO/HI	1.3%

Fiscal Year 2008

# Judicial Report

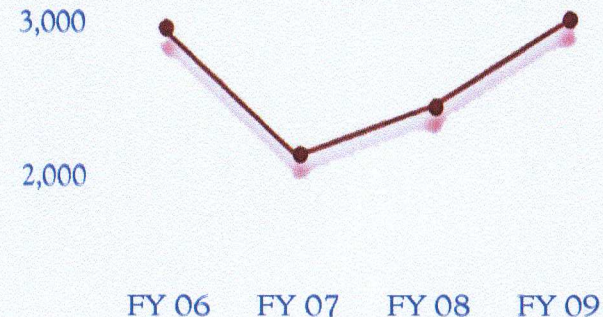
Fiscal Year 2009

## Civil Hearings

The number of Civil Hearings held continues to show an increase from the dip we saw in Fiscal Year 2007; in FY 07, 2,163 hearings were held. However in FY 08, 2,449 hearings were held which was an increase of 13% from FY 07. In FY 09, 2,982 hearings were held which was an increase of 22% from FY 08.

Considering that the workload of Civil Traffic increased 11% from FY 08, the additional percentage of Civil Hearings held would need to be connected to other factors such as the Photo Enforcement Program or the economic conditions in general.

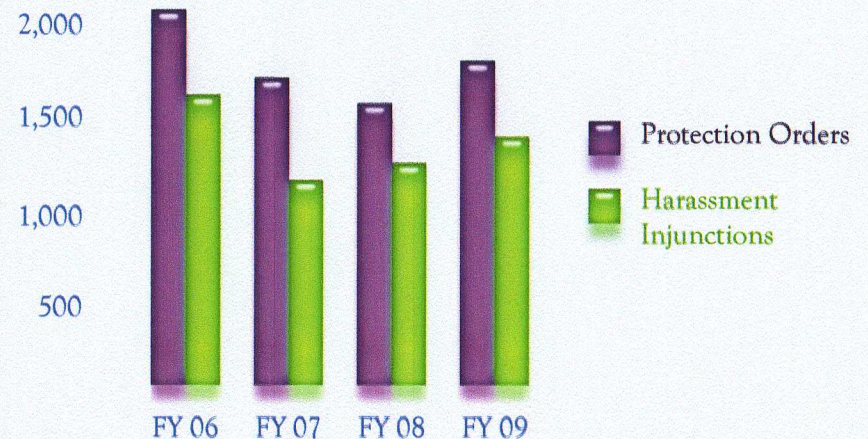
## Civil Hearings Held



## Protection Orders and Injunctions Against Harassment

Both Protection Orders and Injunctions Against Harassment showed increases in the number of hearings held from Fiscal Year 2008. While Protection Orders increased 14% and Injunctions increased 13%, which accumulative equals a 13.7% increase from the previous Fiscal Year. This increase is quite significant considering FY 08 showed just an accumulative 1% increase from FY 07. However, one may note that the total of 3,591 hearings held is still much lower (15%) than the 4,243 that were held in FY 06.

## Protection Orders and Harassment Injunctions Hearings Held



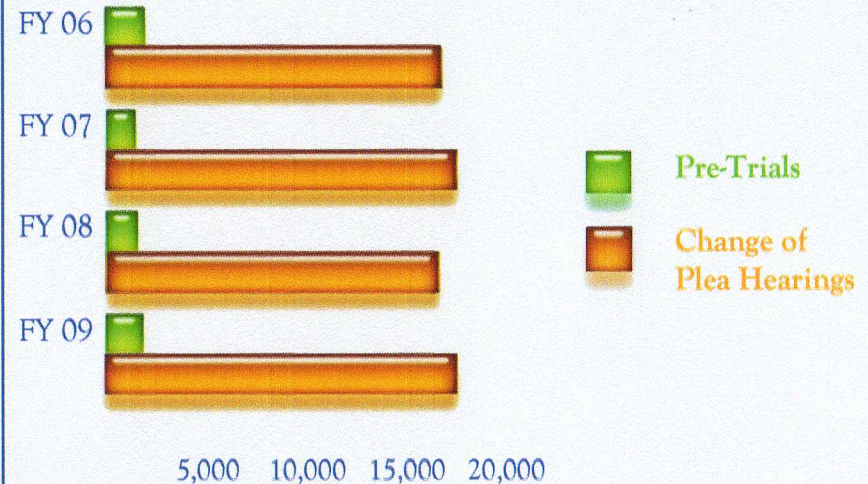
# Judicial Report

Fiscal Year 2009

## Pre-Trials and Change of Plea Hearings

In Fiscal Year 2009, there were 2,119 Pre-Trial Hearings held, while there were 18,695 Change of Plea Hearings held. Both figures represent an increase from FY 08 of 13% and 5% respectively.

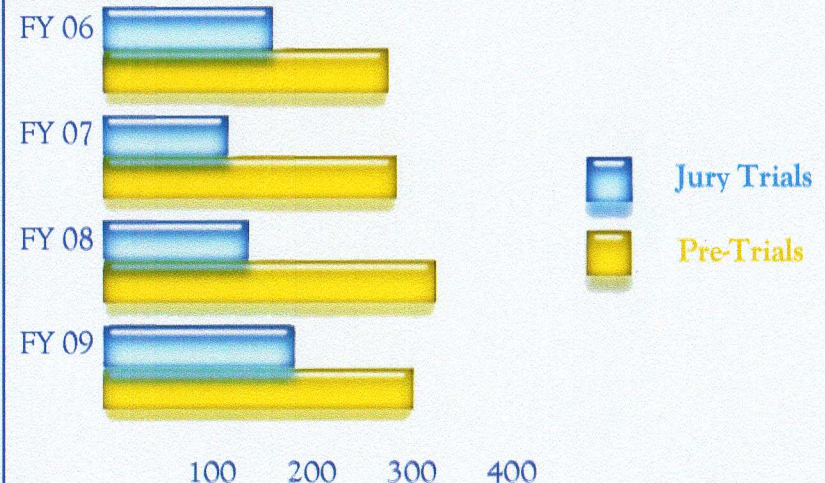
When comparing the last four fiscal years in relation to Pre-Trials held, FY 09 is similar to FY 06 (2,119 vs. 2,198). However the number of Change of Plea Hearing held in FY 09 (18,695) is higher than the number held in FY 06 (17,989). This equates to a 4% decrease in the number of Pre-Trials held, but with a 4% increase in the number of Change of Plea Hearings held.



## Jury and Bench Trials

In Fiscal Year 2009, there were 194 Jury Trials held and 314 Bench Trials. While Jury Trials have increased 30% from FY 08, Bench Trials have decreased 7%.

In reviewing the last four fiscal years, the number of Jury Trials held has exceeded the previous three years; FY 06 came in next at 174. The number of bench trials remains fairly consistent at about 300 per year. After increases in each year for three years, FY 09 saw a slight decrease in the number of bench trials held.



# Judicial Report

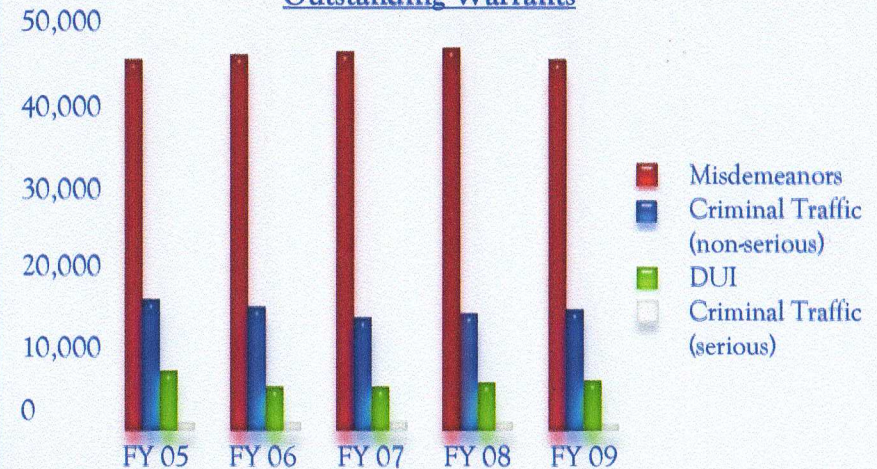
Fiscal Year 2009

## Warrants

The chart to the right illustrates the four different categories that the Court issues warrants for when a defendant fails to appear for a scheduled court appearance.

As the chart points out, Criminal Misdemeanors far exceeds the other categories. FY 09 did show a decrease of 3% from FY 08 in the issuing of warrants on Misdemeanors. While Misdemeanors and Criminal Traffic (serious violation) showed decreases, the other two categories showed slight increases of less than 2.5%. However when comparing the last five fiscal years, the numbers have remained fairly consistent; at any given time, the Court has approximately 66,000 active warrants.

## Outstanding Warrants



## Special Magistrates

In reviewing the long term history of assigning Special Magistrates, FY 09 indicates that we used Special Magistrates 79% less than we did in FY 02 (410 vs. 1934 respectively).

In Fiscal Year 2007, the Court assigned a Special Magistrate to cover 983 court sessions. This spike was due to the Court's expansion of Sentence Enforcement Court from eight to twelve sessions per week and the coverage of one of our regular magistrate's calendar while that magistrate was on extended medical leave.

The recent and anticipated future decrease of using Special Magistrates to cover court sessions, can be largely attributed to budget constraints that the Court continues to face.

## Special Magistrate Use by Session

